Customer No.: 31561
Application No.: 10/710,300
Docket No.: 11025-US-PA

REMARKS

Present Status of the Application

Claims 1-7 are still pending because the claims 1-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 (e). However, applicant respectfully traverses the preceding rejection ground alleged by the examiner and reconsideration of the claims 1-7 is respectfully requested.

Discussion for amendments made to claims 1 and 5

From paragraphs [0008] and [0024] in the specification, the non-volatile memory blocks are written every a time unit, such as a minute or an hour. Thus, the claims 1 and 5 are so amended to incorporate the preceding feature.

Discussion for rejection to claims under 35 U.S.C.102 (e)

2. Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 (e) as being anticipated by U.S. Publication No.2004/0145973A1 (Nagashima, hereinafter referred as Nagashima)

In re claim 1, an apparatus for storing time-relevant data, comprising: a controller; and a nonvolatile memory, the controller being coupled to the non-volatile memory, wherein the nonvolatile memory comprises at least two memory blocks, which are written by said controller, said two memory blocks corresponding to different addresses for storing data referring to a time unit. (referring to section 0019, lines

8-15, section 0204, lines 1-8 and section 0298, lines 6-10); Likewise, the referring sections in Nagashima are applied to reject claim 5.

In response thereto, applicants respectfully traverse the preceding rejections based on the following arguments and thus withdrawal of objections to the claims 1-7 is respectfully requested.

To establish a prima facie case of anticipation, the prior art reference (i.e. Nagashima) should teach all limitations claimed in these independent claims 1 and 5. Furthermore, from section 0019, in Nagashima, there discloses "storage means for storing data indicating a time-setting status of the time measurement means." In other words, in Nagashima, the storage means is only stored data as required by users, but not written every a specific time interval. Moreover, in Nagashima, data to be stored indicate a time-setting status, instead of referring to a time unit as claimed in the amended claims 1 and 5. Furthermore, in terms of functionality, Nagashima intends to allow an electronic device to be set with different statuses in accordance with the acquired date information, rather than lengthening a writing time limit of the nonvolatile memory as claimed in the amended claims 1 and 5.

Therefore, Nagashima fails to teach, suggest or disclose "the non-volatile memory comprising memory blocks, which are written by said controller once every a

time unit, (emphasis added)" and "said two memory blocks corresponding to different addresses for storing data referring to the time unit, thereby lengthening a writing time limit of the nonvolatile memory, (emphasis added)" as claimed in the amended claims 1 and 5. Thus, the amended claims 1 and 5 are not anticipated by Nagashima and accordingly patentable.

Regarding dependent claims 2-4 and 6-7, they should be patentable as a matter of law for the reason that they contain all limitations of their corresponding patentable base claims 1 and 5.

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CONCLUSION

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is believed that all the pending claims 1-7 of the present application patently define over the prior art and are in proper condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would expedite the examination of the above-identified patent application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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